

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO USMISSION USBERLIN

SECSTATE WASHDC 2121

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16215

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE

SUBJECT: STATUS OF EAST BERLIN VOLKSKAMMER DEPUTIES
UNDER NEW GDR ELECTION LAW

REFS: (A) STATE 231274; (B) USBERLIN 1386; (C) BONN
12889; (D) USBERLIN 1812

SUMMARY: BONN GROUP HAS AGREED TO ALLIED APPROACH TO
SOVIETS ON CHANGE IN VOLKSKAMMER ELECTION LAW BUT
SUGGESTS IT BE MADE IN INFORMAL SOCIAL CONTEXT RATHER
THAN IN A FORMAL MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. US REP HAS INFORMED OTHER ALLIED BONN GROUP REPS OF
INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REF A. BRITISH AND FRENCH
REPS AGREED WITH DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION IN REF A
PARA 2. HOWEVER, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE APPROACH
SHOULD BE MADE IN A SOCIAL CONTEXT RATHER THAN IN A
FORMAL MEETING.

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2. FRENCH REP (DE BOISSIEU) NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH HE HAD

ORIGINATED THE PROPOSAL FOR A DEMARCHE ON THE SUBJECT, HE WAS NOW NO LONGER ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE CHANGES WERE MINOR. IT SEEMED USEFUL TO PUT SOMETHING ON THE RECORD BEFORE THE ANTICIPATED SOVIET PROTEST ON BERLIN AND EC DIRECT ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, OUR DEMARCHE WAS NOW LATE, ON A MINOR POINT, AND AFTER THE SOVIET EC PROTEST. FINALLY, IT COULD APPEAR TO THE SOVIETS AS A WEAK COMEBACK FOR EC DIRECT ELECTIONS.

3. UK REP (HITCH) GENERALLY AGREED. HE REPORTED THAT RECENT INFORMATION FROM THE UK MISSION IN BERLIN INDICATED THAT GDR ELECTION LAW CONTINUES TO LIST GDR AND EAST BERLIN ELECTION DISTRICTS SEPARATELY. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE TWO SEPARATE COMMISSIONS TO CONDUCT THE ELECTIONS, ONE FOR THE GDR AND THE OTHER FOR EAST BERLIN. IN HIS VIEW, WE HAD A PRETTY WEAK CASE.

4. AFTER DISCUSSION, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH A DEMARCHE. THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT CHANGES, HOWEVER MINOR, HAD OCCURRED. THEREFORE, SOME ALLIED MARKER SHOULD BE LEFT WITH THE SOVIETS. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, IT WAS AGREED THAT, AFTER COORDINATION AMONG ALLIED POLADS, ONE POLAD SHOULD USE SOCIAL OCCASION RATHER THAN A FORMAL MEETING AND APPROACH SOVIET REP ALONG LINES INDICATED IN REF A.
HILLENBRAND

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